

Characteristics of Geriatric patients in CKD

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Aging process in Korea is accelerating, and, within several years, Korean society will be an aged society. Aging is associated with various chronic diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus, metabolic syndrome, malignancy, etc., which are risk factors to presence of chronic kidney disease (CKD). The prevalence of CKD is 8–13 %, worldwide, and is increasing with ageing. We searched several characteristics of CKD in the elderly population. For examples, the CKD stage 3a in the elderly indicates fast decline of renal function, increase of uremia related symptoms, and higher rate of functional disability, regardless of normo-albuminuria. Body composition is considered as a risk factor to the presence of CKD. In elderly population, body fat proportion and lean body mass are more informative to estimate the prevalence of CKD or progression of renal dysfunction compared to BMI. In Korea, survival rate of elderly ESRD patients might be better than in Western countries. Early referral to nephrologist before renal replacement therapy is one of the modifiable risk factors to the all-cause mortality in the elderly. We might need a decision process for initiation of renal replacement therapy in the elderly (> 80 years), which is suitable for Korean population.